resulted in substantial reduction of liability;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this falsification of figures was done by the members of the Special Team based on the understanding with the company; and

(e) what are the details in this regard and what steps have been taken to fix the responsibility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (e) The tentative liability of M/s Hoechst was assessed at Rs. 3.12 crores up-to August, 1987 by the Special Team. After receipt of a number of complaints alleging acts of ommision and commission on the part of the Special Team, the tentative liability for this period was revised to Rs. 77.81 crores. These complaints were regarding inaccurate reckoning of the company's bulk drug prices in the computation of the liabilities, grant of unauthorised and inadimissible set offs in the quantum of production and sales and the sale value of various drugs and formulations etc. The question of fixing the responsibilities on any one in this regard would arise only after the liabilities are finally determined.

Information on imported items

1961. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3039 given in Rajya Sabha on 19th Dec., 1991 and state:

(a) whether information given on the imported items used for the production of 6—APA is misleading;

(b) what is the exact custom duty on each of the imported item used for the production of Ampicillion Trihydrate;

(c) what is the import content at CIF cost based on which he price was revised recently;

(d) whethed it is a fact that CIF import price of the drug is only $ 35 per kg and the local producers are overinvoicing the imports of inputs as a result of which the import content in the domestic production is higher; and

(e) what steps have been taken to prevent such a situation where common man is paying a high price and more foreign exchange is going out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No, Sir. In reply to part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3093 asking "whether it is a fact that 6—APA is also used for the production of Ampicillin Trihydrate and inputs used for its production are also allowed for import with duty concession", the answer was given in affirmative. It may be elaborated here that for the production of 6—APA, Penicillin G. Potassium First Crystals is the starting material. This is produced indigenously. In earlier Import Policy, it was in Limited Permissible List (App. 2B) and in the current EXIM Policy it is in the Negative List. However, due to insufficient production, its imports are permitted at concesional duty to meet the shortfall and such import is linked with the lifting of indigenously produced material as per the policy in this regard.

(b) At present the customs duty concession is available on Dimethyl Dichloro Silane @ 95 per cent and D(—) phenyl Glycin Base @ 25 per cent for the production of Ampicillin Trihydrate. For other imported items used for the production of Ampicillin Trihydrate the customs duty is leviable at normal prevailing rates.

(c) the contents of imported materials of c.i.f. price is around 40 per cent in the total cost of raw material.

(d) and (e) The import price of bulk drugs is not being monitored by this Ministry and the reports of instances of over invoicing on imports of inputs has not come to the notice of this Department.